

---

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

---

**PATENT**

In re application of: Michael NEAL et al.

Attorney Docket No.: DEM1P008

Application No.: 10/006,608

Examiner: AUGUSTIN, Evens J.

Filed: November 30, 2001

Group: 3621

Title: SUBSET OPTIMIZATION SYSTEM

Confirmation No: 1143

---

**FILED VIA EFS**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**December 18, 2009**

Mail Stop: RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed August 18, 2009, please amend the above identified patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 9 of this paper.